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LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIÃO NACIONAL PARA A INDEPENDÊNCIA TOTAL DE ANGOLA

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Security Council about the present situation in Angola. The international community is fully committed to the achievement of lasting peace and stability in Angola. The members of the Council are pleased to note your recent agreement upon a revised timetable for the peace process and encourage you to carry out your commitments to that process in accordance with the agreed timetable. The Council members note that the two sides are moving towards agreement on the modalities of UNITA participation in the integrated Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), but that questions such as the appointment of União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) officers and specific issues for integration still need to be worked out and put into practice.

The members of the Council have, however, asked me to express their serious concern about reports of continued violations of the cease-fire, at the slow progress to date on practical implementation of many of your obligations assumed under the Lusaka Protocol and at the failure to stick to earlier timetables. On their behalf I appeal strongly to you to build upon the progress made in negotiations in the past few days and to do everything necessary to resolve the outstanding issues that are blocking the peace process in Angola and to restore fully the confidence of the international community.

In this context, Council members appreciate the recent steps by the Government of Angola, in particular, the release of prisoners, the repatriation of mercenaries, the withdrawal of its troops from the vicinity of UNITA quartering areas and the beginning of the process of quartering the rapid reaction police.

They expect that UNITA will take the necessary steps in response, by promptly resuming a large-scale, uninterrupted and verifiable process of quartering its troops in line with the revised timetable, releasing all prisoners, and by extending its full and unconditional cooperation to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) on the ground, including the provision to the United Nations of the military and other information required by the Lusaka Protocol. They urge both parties to refrain from military

activities or troop movements, to speed up the process of de-mining, particularly of all major roads, to cease the dissemination of hostile propaganda and to implement expeditiously the disengagement plan prepared by UNAVEM III.

Council members also wish to convey to you their regret at the stalemate in the process of quartering and demobilization of UNITA troops, the slow pace of the integration of UNITA's former combatants into the national army, as well as delays in the return of FAA to the nearest barracks, all of which are vital to the success of national reconciliation. They consider that you and the Government, by agreeing to the latest timetable, appear to be taking steps to reverse the dangerous trend towards mistrust, mutual hostility and elevated tension.

The members of the Council recall the heavy commitment of the international community in supporting the Angolan peace process. They encourage you urgently to convene a meeting between you and President dos Santos without conditions, which they believe could help to improve the climate of trust and give new impetus to the peace process.

Let me reassure you that Council members fully stand behind the efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the three observer countries in promoting the peace process. In this regard, they particularly welcome the positive efforts of President Soares of Portugal during his recent visit to Angola. The members of the Council look forward to hearing from Ambassador Albright your response to the concerns expressed in this letter. That response, as well as the evidence of concrete actions taken by you and the Government, will be critical factors as the Council considers the possible renewal of the mandate of UNAVEM III next month.

(Signed) Sir John WESTON, KCMG
President of the Security Council